

1088

My name is Joe Duffy of Wethersfield, Ct. I thank Senator Gerratana and Representative Ritter for raising this bill in the fervent hope that it will be reported out. SB 1088 would indeed be a piece of seminal legislation. In truth, it would constitute an "emancipation proclamation" for the community of persons with intellectual disabilities and their long-

suffering families. As a parent-advocate of both HARC and Families for Families of the ARC of Connecticut, I am personally and profoundly aware of the long-neglected needs of our IDD community. This bill would point the way to a bright new day by an unmistakeable focus on a vast, complex and woefully unacknowledged problem. Hard work joined with political courage will be

indispensable to the careful analysis and implementation of SB 1088. This bill summons to efficacious action the very conscience of our state. Whatever the invariable re-shaping of this bill in its path through

our legislative process, the core objectives laudably and fully address with urgency the crisis we parents have lived with every day for decades:-----a realistic plan based on vision for the IDD community; protection and safety of persons with IDD; desperately needed savings from reconfiguring the delivery of DDS services from every vantage point; and finally

but most importantly_____ recognition at last by our government that the IDD community deserves the dignity of equal treatment based on our bedrock American moral and ethical principles that ensure the civil rights of all citizens. Passage of this bill will enable a DDS chronically battered by disproportionate and callous budget cuts to commence

the fulfillment of its noble mission: "putting people and their families first and foremost." SB 1088 will furnish our extremely able and totally dedicated new Commissioner Morna Murray the means to bring justice and peace of mind to the thousands of clients for whom this vital department is responsible.
Respectfully, Joe Duffy, M.A.,